

**From:** Charles Sutton  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/24/02 12:24am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I am commenting on the proposed Final Judgment in the Microsoft antitrust case, pursuant to the Tunney Act. I am a graduate student in computer science, I have worked as a software engineer (never for a competitor of Microsoft's), and I have used Microsoft products for almost 15 years. I do not believe that the proposed Final Judgment is in the public interest.

In particular, I am concerned about the definition middleware product in the settlement. As a software engineer, I know that Microsoft places much of its business Internet strategy in what it calls the .NET suite of applications, and the programming language C#. Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer says as much an interview with ComputerWorld magazine (By Carol Sliwa, January 14, 2002): "From my perspective, the theme over the next year is Web services, XML and .Net." Since many of Microsoft's anticompetitive practices involved the Internet (specifically, World Web Browsers), it seems that this is an oversight in the settlement. Because Microsoft produces the dominant Web browser---a dominance which was achieved illegally---Microsoft stands to gain if such services become popular. I believe that the Final Judgement should address this.

In general, it seems to me that the settlement attempts more to prevent Microsoft from breaking the law in the future than it will do to restore competition in any of Microsoft's markets: Web browsers, office software, or operating systems. I do not believe that it will punish Microsoft for having broken the law.

Sincerely,

Charles Sutton